

Message Text

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PAGE 01 USUN N 00778 01 OF 02 060401Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
-----122823 060408Z /72

O 060323Z MAR 78
FM USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 9878
INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY LAGOS IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY MAPUTO IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY BONN IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY PARIS IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY GABORONE PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY OUAGADOUGOU PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY PORT LOUIS PRIORITY
AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 USUN NEW YORK 00778

EXDIS

EO:11652:N/A
TAGS: PORG, UNSC, RH
SUBJECT: RHODESIA: SECURITY COUNCIL MEETING: SALIM'S
ADVICE

SUMMARY: TANZANIAN PERMREP SALIM AT MEETING WITH USUN
LATE MARCH 5 STRONGLY URGED THAT US AND UK CEASE ANY
EFFORT TO AVOID OR EVEN DELAY OPENING OF FORMAL SC DEBATE
ON RHODESIA MARCH 6. HE PROMISED HIS BEST EFFORTS TO GIVE
DEBATE A MODERATE TONE AND TO AVOID PROCEDURAL WRANGLES
OVER MUZOREWA'S SPEAKING BEFORE COUNCIL. WE HAVE URGED
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PAGE 02 USUN N 00778 01 OF 02 060401Z

UKUN TO ACCEPT THIS ADVICE. AMB RICHARD IS RELUCTANTLY
REPORTING TO LONDON THAT FORMAL MEETING TOMORROW MAY BE
UNAVOIDABLE. END SUMMARY.

1. FOLLOWING RECEIPT OF MOST HELPFUL CABLES FROM DAR
(948 AND 949) AND LAGOS (2757), YOUNG, LEONARD AND MCHENRY
COMPARED NOTES WITH UKUN AND THEN ATTEMPTED TO ARRANGE

MEETING WITH SALIM AND NIGERIAN PERMREP HARRIMAN. SALIM MET WITH US AT MISSION LATE IN AFTERNOON. HARRIMAN COULD NOT BE REACHED BUT SALIM HAD DISCUSSED SITUATION WITH HIM ON SEVERAL OCCASIONS IN PAST THREE DAYS AND WITHIN LIMITS FELT CONFIDENT ABOUT REFLECTING ATTITUDES OF NIGERIANS AND OTHER LEADING AFRICANS.

2. SALIM'S CENTRAL POINT WAS THAT ANY FURTHER US OR UK EFFORTS TO STAVE OFF SC MEETING WOULD COST US DEAR AND PROBABLY NOT SUCCEED. AFRICAN GROUP GENERALLY IS ANGERED AND CONCERNED OVER SALISBURY AGREEMENTS AND DEEPLY SUSPICIOUS OF BRITISH (SALIM'S FRANK COMMENTS ON BRITISH SHOULD NOT OF COURSE BE PASSED TO THEM THOUGH BRITS WOULD HARDLY BE ASTONISHED.) EVEN IF ALL WE ASK IS A FEW DAYS DELAY, MANY AFRICANS WILL CONCLUDE WE ARE SIMPLY HOPING THAT SOMETHING WILL TURN UP TO PUT MATTER OFF INDEFINITELY AND ALLOW INTERNAL SETTLEMENT TO BE CONSOLIDATED.

3. SALIM SAID THAT IF FIRST FORMAL MEETING IS HELD AFTERNOON OF MARCH 6 HE AND PERHAPS ZAMBIA WILL SPEAK AND TRY TO SET DEBATE ON RIGHT TRACK, I.E., CONDEMNATION OF INTERNAL SETTLEMENT AND ENDORSEMENT OF PRINCIPLES OF ANGLO-AMERICAN PLAN. CONFRONTATION OF AFRICANS WITH WEST COULD THUS BE AVOIDED OR MINIMIZED. SINCE NKOMAXO WOULD NOT ARRIVE IN TIME FOR THIS FIRST MEETING, THERE WOULD BE TIME TO TALK TO HIM ABOUT KEEPING HIS RHETORIC UNDER CONTROL. CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 03 USUN N 00778 01 OF 02 060401Z

4. ASKED IF UK AND US SHOULD ALSO SPEAK EARLY, SALIM SAID YES, PROVIDED WE WOULD UNDERLINE WAYS IN WHICH INTERNAL SETTLEMENT FAILED TO MEASURE UP TO STANDARD SET BY AAP. WE INDICATED THAT SUCH AN ANALYTICAL STATEMENT COULD NOT BE PUT TOGETHER HASTILY, AND PARTICULARLY FOR UK ANY "CONDEMNATION" OF INTERNAL SETTLEMENT WAS OUT OF THE QUESTION.

5. WE RAISED PROBLEM OF INVITATION FOR MUZOREWA TO ADDRESS COUNCIL, POINTING OUT NKOMO HAD ALREADY TOLD PRESS HE WOULD MAKE SURE "TWO TRAITORS DO NOT SET THEIR FEET IN THE CONFERENCE CHAMBER." (LUSAKA 0680). SALIM CALLED THIS MOST REGRETTABLE AND SAID HE WOULD DO HIS BEST TO CONVINCE AFRICAN GROUP WHICH MEETS MONDAY MORNING, AND NKOMO THAT A PROCEDURAL HASSLE WOULD BE UNWISE AND COULD MAKE A HERO OF THE BISHOP IN THE US AND UK PRESS. HE ASKED THAT WE URGE LEADING NON-ALIGNED TO TAKE SAME POSITION.

6. REGARDING SERIOUS DISCUSSION ON A RESOLUTION, SALIM THOUGHT THIS COULD BEST WAIT SEVERAL DAYS. WE WARNED OF

FUTILITY OF PRESSING UK FOR ANY CONDEMNATION OF SALIS-
BURY NEGOTIATIONS, THOUGH THEY COULD SAY AS OWEN HAD IN
HIS BBC INTERVIEW (LONDON 03533) THAT SMITH'S
CONCESSIONS HAD "QUITE A LONG WAY TO GO." SALIM FOUND
THIS INTERVIEW "NOT BAD."

7. ADDRESSING BASIC SITUATION IN AND AROUND RHODESIA, SALIM
SALIM HOPED SC DEBATE COULD HELP US PUBLIC TO UNDERSTAND
THAT US INTERESTS LARGELY COINCIDED WITH THOSE OF
MODERATE AFRICANS LIKE TANZANIA. SELLOUT LIKE THAT TO
WHICH SITHOLE AND NOW MUZOREWA WERE AGREEING COULD ONLY

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 02 USUN NEW YORK 00778

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LEAD TO INTENSIFICATION OF FIGHTING AND ENHANCED ROLE FOR
SOVIETS. SOVIETS HAD BEEN DEJECTED WHEN COUNCIL ENDORSED
PREMCHAND MISSION AND WOULD BE ELATED BY CURRENT DEVELOP-

MENTS. BRITISH PRETENDED TO AGREE WITH FRONT LINE BUT
THEIR SUPPORT FOR AAP WAS WEAK, THEY WERE IN AFRICAN EYES
CONGENITAL DOUBLE-DEALERS, AND THEY REALLY ONLY WANTED
OUT OF WHOLE AFFAIR. US WOULD HAVE TO TAKE THE LEAD IF
ITS INTERESTS IN AFRICA AND AGAINST SOVIETS WERE TO BE
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PAGE 02 USUN N 00778 02 OF 02 060406Z

PROTECTED.

8. AFTER THIS SESSION WITH SALIM, LEONARD REPORTED SUB-
STANCE OF PARAS 2-6 TO AMB RICHARD. HE WAS MOST DIS-
APPOINTED BY OUR RECOMMENDATION NOT TO RESIST FORMAL
MEETING TOMORROW AND GRUMBLED THAT HE DID NOT KNOW IF OWEN
WOULD BUY IT. COMMENT: IT WAS OUR IMPRESSION THAT IN
OWEN-VANCE CONVERSATION MARCH 4, OWEN ACCEPTED THAT WE
WERE NOT LIKELY TO SUCCEED IN AVOIDING A MEETING COMPLETELY.
SEE PARA 4 OF USUN 775. WE WONDER HOW GOOD COMMUNICATIONN
COMMUNICATIONS ARE BETWEEN OWEN AND RICHARD. END COMMENT.
WE AGREED OUR STAFFS WOULD CONSULT ON HOW TO BEST
HANDLE ARRANGEMENTS FOR MUZOREWA TO ADDRESS COUNCIL.YOUNG

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